

# *Southwest Public Lands People*

Employee News of the  
San Juan National Forest & San Juan Field Office-BLM  
Fall 2002



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

<u><a href="#">San Juan Public Lands Center</a></u>	Pages 1 - 6
<u><a href="#">Columbine Ranger District/Field Office</a></u>	Pages 6 - 8
<u><a href="#">Pagosa Ranger District/Field Office</a></u>	Pages 9 - 10
<u><a href="#">Dolores Public Lands Office</a></u>	Pages 10 - 13
<u><a href="#">Anasazi Heritage Center</a></u>	Pages 13 - 16

## SAN JUAN PUBLIC LANDS CENTER

### Make Your Own Maps

By Art Sanchez



**DURANGO** - Check out the latest high-tech addition to the San Juan Mountains Association Bookstore. A National Geographic Map Machine lets visitors and employees print topographical maps of areas on National Forests, National Parks, and BLM land in 33 states.

Until recently, the machines have been available only at sporting goods stores. Now four have been installed at USFS offices in Colorado: Durango, Canon City, Steamboat Springs, and Idaho Springs. The map data come from USGS quad maps compiled on computer disk by National Geographic. The age of road and trail information depends on when the various quads were last updated, but the topographical data are very detailed. The machine produces seamless maps in portrait or landscape layout, with or without UTM (useful for GIS positioning) or latitude/longitude grids. Optional layers include shaded topographic relief and Colorado Division of Wildlife Game Management Unit boundaries.

For \$7.95, you get an 18"x13" map in four minutes on waterproof, durable, high-quality paper. The USFS pays to lease the machine and for printing supplies. Revenues from map sales are held to pay the following year's lease.

*(Art Sanchez is a Visitor Information Specialist at the Public Lands Center.)*



**WHAT A CREW!** From left: Nancy Berry, Penny Wu, Tracey McInerney, Rick Ryan, Brenda Schultz, Pauline Ellis, Tom Boness, and Art Sanchez.

## Agency Folks Flip for Association Volunteers

By Kathe Hayes

**DURANGO** – San Juan Public Lands employees volunteered as cooks last month at the San Juan Mountains Association's annual Volunteer Recognition Party. For their expert burger-flipping services, each received an apron emblazoned with the SJMA logo. The crew served burgers, chicken, and smiles to about 100 SJMA volunteers, members, and staff.

The annual event was held at the Edgemont Ranch Picnic area. SJMA staff provided side dishes, and everyone else brought desserts for the annual dessert contest. Volunteers were honored with new SJMA volunteer pins. The Adopt-a-Road folks also received recognition signs that will be installed on their adopted roads. Patti Brady was recognized specifically for her outstanding volunteer service and work with the ambassador program.

*(Kathe Hayes is the SJMA Volunteer Clearinghouse/Volunteer Program Director.)*

## Thirty Years... But Who's Counting?

**DURANGO** – Congratulations to San Juan Public Lands Engineering Staff Officer Bob Sieger and Landscape Architect Dick Ostergaard, who reached the 30-year mark in their USFS careers this summer.





## Brazell's the New Big Boss

By Ann Bond

**DURANGO** – Rick Brazell will be with us until just before Christmas as the latest Acting San Juan NF Forest Supervisor and BLM Field Office Manager.

Rick has been with the Pike/San Isabel NFs for the past three years as Renewable Resources Staff Officer. Before that, he was District Ranger for the Kaddo/LBJ National Grasslands of Texas, where he handled many recreation and oil-and-gas issues for three years.

His previous USFS positions include Threatened and Endangered Species Biologist for the Ouachita NF in Arkansas, District Ranger for the Caribou NF in Idaho, and Assistant District Ranger for the Ashley NF in Utah. His very first USFS job was in 1977, as a project leader at a residential YCC camp in Idaho.

"It was eight weeks living 24-7 with hormonally challenged kids, building fences and other projects," he says. This led to career in various wildlife positions.

Born in Knox City, Texas, just north of Abilene, Rick holds a bachelor's degree in Biology from West Texas State University and a master's in Wildlife from Utah State University.

His wife, Becky, is a schoolteacher in Colorado City, near Pueblo. They have four sons. He says he was interested in the San Juan detail for several reasons.

"You had a fire, and we had a fire (the Hayman), and fire is a big part of my background," he says. "Plus the BLM component of the job is awesome. The way I look at it, the land doesn't care as long as it's managed properly. It doesn't matter what uniform you wear."

Rick is an avid outdoorsman who has hunted and fished all his life.

## Sargent's Second in Charge

By Ann Bond

**DURANGO** – Howard Sargent, who arrived in July as the Acting San Juan Public Lands Assistant Forest Supervisor and Center Manager, will be with us until October.

"It's quite a career opportunity for me to be here," he says. "I wanted to see what it was like with the Service First interaction with the BLM. The biggest challenge has been to keep all the normal operations going on with the extra work created by the aftermath of the Missionary Ridge Fire."

Howard is on detail from the Medicine Bow-Routt NFs, where he's been the Yampa District Ranger for the past two years. Previously, he worked as Forest Planner on the Arapaho-Roosevelt NFs for nine years.

He began his USFS career as a Forester Trainee on the Helena NF in Montana and went on to work on NFs in Idaho, Washington State, and Wisconsin. Howard grew up in Illinois and received his bachelor's degree in Forest Sciences from the University of Illinois. His wife and two children live in Fort Collins. "I put a lot of miles on the truck," he says.





## Baker's Cookin'

By Ann Bond

**DURANGO** – Dave Baker, new San Juan Public Lands Planning and Environmental Coordinator, comes from the BLM's Worland Field Office in Wyoming, where he was Recreational Planner. One of his responsibilities there was as BLM State Cave Coordinator, working as a liaison between federal agencies and recreational cavers. He also helped complete the development plan for Red Gulch Dinosaur Track Site, North America's largest Middle Jurassic track site.

Dave started with the BLM as a seasonal in Worland in 1984. Before that, he worked with private campgrounds in Pennsylvania and California, as a Wilderness guard for the Bighorn NF, and in fire for the USFS.

He holds a degree in Recreational Resource Management from the University of Montana, where he met his wife, Jamie Sellar-Baker, who works in the Dolores Public Lands Office. They have a daughter, Alex, 11, a swimmer. Dave is now busy working as Community Liaison with the Burned Area Emergency Rehabilitation (BAER) Team following the Missionary Ridge Fire.

"I had knee surgery right after I started the new job here, and I'm just getting my feet back on the ground — literally and figuratively," Dave says. An avid mountaineer, he looks forward to getting back on the trail.

## Bedonie Bolts

By Ann Bond

**DURANGO** – Dispatcher Frank Bedonie left the Durango Interagency Dispatch Center for the Rocky Mountain Area Coordination Center this spring. He's now Fire and Aviation Dispatcher and Assistant Coordinator in Lakewood, supporting resources around the Region.

Frank started working with the Durango Interagency Dispatch Center in 1996 when it was still in Mancos. "We started talking about ideas of having our own center in 1991," Frank says. "We've come a long way."

Before working for the San Juan, Frank was with the Ute Mountain Ute Indian Reservation's fire program. He raised appaloosas and quarter horses in the Cortez area. "My horses are in Aztec, where my family has a home," he says.

His other interests include going to Native American cultural activities. "I enjoyed working with everybody," Frank says. "Leaving southwest Colorado is hard, as I have lived in Cortez for 13 years."







## Lenihan Likes It Here

By Ann Bond

**DURANGO** – Dave Lenihan has been working since June in the Durango Interagency Fire Dispatch Center as the new Intelligence Dispatcher. He comes from Mesa Verde National Park where he was in law enforcement, fire dispatch and maintenance for four years.

Before that, he spent 26 years in the Air Force. His last assignment was at an air base in Turkey where he was in charge of the Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Defense Flight for two years.

"It's a lot better here, I don't have people shooting at me," he says. "I often had to go into northern Iran. My job was to take samples of weapons."

Dave is married with two grown children and lives in Cortez, where he and his wife have volunteered as foster parents for the Humane Society for three years. He says they have a weakness for adopting homeless Rottweilers.

## Break Out the Bagpipes!

By Ann Bond

**DURANGO** - Laurie Robinson arrived this summer from Flagstaff, Arizona, to work as a Fire Prevention Specialist. She had worked on the Coconino NF since 1988. Although most of her career has been in fire prevention, she has also worked on an engine crew and in public affairs.

Laurie has a degree in journalism from Northern Arizona University and worked as chief photographer for the *Arizona Daily Sun* before joining the Forest Service. Born in Greeley, Laurie spent her childhood in Lakewood, then moved to Scottsdale, Arizona, during high school.

"I'm coming back to my home state," she says. When she's not working, Laurie says she enjoys being "owned" by eight sled dogs. "One of the reasons I'm glad to be moving to Colorado is that I race here with my dogs several times each winter," she says.

She also plays the bagpipes and will be joining the Westwinds Pipe Band, a local group that also boasts the San Juan's Lloyd McNeil as a drummer.



## Redmond's Ready

By Ann Bond

**DURANGO** - Beth Redmond has joined the Budget and Finance Staff in the San Juan Public Lands Center. She will be assisting Budget Officer Linda Knipp with the budget and, for the next month or so, the year-end process.



"We in B&F are so glad to have Beth on board," Linda says. "She's a really neat person, and I'm sure you will all enjoy working with her." As Budget and Accounting Analyst, Beth will be working with Project Work Plans and helping out wherever she can.

She arrived on the San Juan last month from the Yampa Ranger District of the Medicine Bow-Routt NFs, where she worked as Support Services Supervisor for 12 years and, before that, as Clerk-Typist for two years. Beth lived in Yampa for 17 years and previously Grand Junction, where she raised three children. Identical-twin daughters Jennifer and Erin are now 22; her son, Nolan, is 20. Her husband, Doug, is a self-employed businessman. "We moved here for a change, especially for the milder winters," Beth says.

## COLUMBINE RANGER DISTRICT/FIELD OFFICE

## Honoring Horace

By Ann Bond

**DURANGO** - A tragic automobile accident in May took the lives of San Juan National Forest retiree Horace Martinez and his wife, Ruth. A Texas driver who was charged with "Careless driving leading to death" ran head-on into their car on Colorado Highway 172.

Horace, who was 64 at the time of his death, was born in Cebolla, New Mexico. He served in the Army and later moved to Durango where he worked for the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad.

He worked for the San Juan National Forest for 30 years, retiring as a Forestry Technician. Horace was an excellent chainsaw operator who worked with crews to maintain campgrounds and trails and remove brush. He was also an avid outdoorsman who liked hunting and fishing.

"I think that's why he liked working for the Forest Service. It kept him outside," said Ted LaMay, retired Animas District Ranger, who worked with Horace for 15 years. "He was just a fine individual who was excellent to work with. Everybody he supervised respected and liked him."





"Horace was always friendly and sunny," says Della Zeller, San Juan Public Lands Center Administrative Assistant. "I knew him when we were kids in Santa Rita. His sister, Inez, and I walked to school together and visited each other. They are a very gracious family."

"I worked with Horace doing timber stand surveys. He knew what needed to be done and how to do it. We'd make bets for best guesses at DBH (Diameter at Breast Height) for the big trees, and if you lost, you had to buy soda for the others on the way home," says Nancy Berry, Columbine Recreation and Wilderness Forester. "Horace was a joy to work with, a hard worker who could do any type of field work."

Horace's wife, Ruth, who was 58 at the time of her death, was a Durango native who had retired from Francisco's Restaurant after 23 years as a waitress. Since retiring, Horace and Ruth had divided their time between Durango and Clifton, Colorado, visiting their extensive family. The entire San Juan National Forest sends sympathy to this fine family and shares in their loss.

## Hello to Hooley

By Carolyn Long

**BAYFIELD** - Camela Hooley, the new NEPA Coordinator on the Columbine RD/Field Office, started her FS career as a temporary-employee firefighter on the Carson National Forest in Farmington, New Mexico.

Since 1992, she has worked at the Jicarilla RD as a Wildlife Biologist, also specializing in minerals. Cam, as she likes to be called, attended Colorado State University, where she earned a degree in Biology. She ended up in Farmington after meeting her husband, Rick, who grew up in Bloomfield and has family in the area. Cam and Rick have a daughter, Trista, 6. They recently purchased a home west of Bayfield. The Hooleys have spent a lot of time camping and hiking in the San Juans and are happy to be here.



*(Carolyn Long is the Visitor Information Specialist for the Columbine RD/FO.)*



## Leon Retires

By Ann Bond

**DURANGO** - Leon Lujan, Columbine Archaeologist, suffered a stroke this summer and has taken medical-disability retirement. BLM co-worker Dee Lewis says Leon is doing well but has some short-term memory loss. Leon worked for the BLM's Montrose District as a seasonal archaeologist for several years before coming to the San Juan Field Office in 1990. As part of the Service First implementation, he assumed duties as Columbine RD Archaeologist last year.

"Leon was very committed to the management and protection of cultural resources in southwestern Colorado," says BLM Archaeologist Kristie Arrington. "Leon encouraged the BLM to establish as many partnerships as possible with Native Americans and worked closely with youth programs in archaeology."



## Invitation to An Old-Fashioned 'Biff Roast'

*Biff Stransky is finally getting to the position in his life  
Where he can finally spend ALL OF HIS TIME WITH HIS WIFE!*

*He is retiring ... or graduating - all depends on how you like to make it sound -  
This Rocky Mountain Boy is Arizona bound.*

*November 9<sup>th</sup> is the evening we've chosen  
Pictures of one and all, bring your smiles coz you'll be posin'.*

*Gosney's Arena is the place for this joyous event  
Down the Buck Highway in Bayfield are the directions we've sent.*

*Bar-B-Q is available at \$5 -10 per plate;  
Six o'clock, it starts SO TRY NOT TO BE LATE!*

*At 7:30 we're gonna have an old-fashioned "Biff Roast,"  
Shortly thereafter, to one and all, we will toast.*

*All beer and libations will be sold at the Bar-B-Q stand  
Together with soda and water, they'll be on hand.*

*We didn't forget the dancin' - that begins 'bout nine,  
So bring your dancin' boots and have a grand time.*

*Let's send Biff off with a huge smile on his face  
Because we all know that he is impossible to replace!*



## PAGOSA RANGER DISTRICT/FIELD OFFICE

### Meet Mendoza

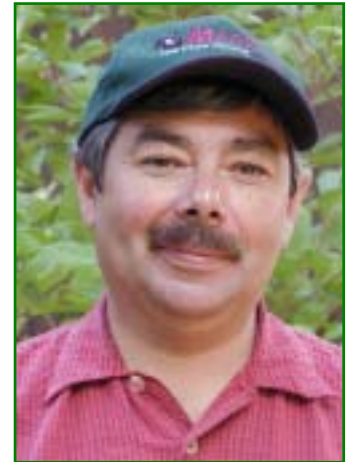
By Phyllis Decker

**PAGOSA SPRINGS** - Richard Mendoza arrived in last month to assume the responsibilities of Sale Prep Forest Technician for the Headwaters Timber Zone.

He'll be handling timber sale environmental analysis, field preparation, and preparation of sale contract packages.

Born and raised in San Diego, Richard earned his degree in timber management at Lassen College in northern California. He has worked in timber on the Lassen and Plumas NFs in Region 5, and the Colville NF in Washington.

Richard came to the SJNF from the Tongass NF in Region 10, stationed in Wrangel, Alaska, a remote town of 2,000 that you can get to only by plane or boat. Richard says Pagosa Springs was an attractive community to his family; he and his wife have three girls and a boy. They look forward to camping, hiking, fishing, and hunting.



*(Phyllis Decker is the Visitor Information Specialist for the Pagosa RD/FO.)*



### Fairchild Fares Well

By Phyllis Decker

**PAGOSA SPRINGS** - Gary Fairchild is the new archaeologist at the Pagosa RD, and he's right where he wants to be. Gary is originally from Detroit, Michigan, with the emphasis on "from." He earned his bachelor's degree in Anthropology from Central Michigan University, and a master's in Anthropology from Kent State. While a student, he worked with the Ohio Historical Society.

As soon as he was able, Gary headed west, first to work briefly in Missoula, Montana, then on to Helena. During 14 years on the Helena NF, Gary gained a National Conservation Education Grant for a two-year archaeological dig of a prehistoric site. The Passport in Time project was accomplished through the cooperation of the Forest Service, Montana State University, and the Museum of the Rockies. For the past four years, Gary worked on the Flathead NF as an archaeologist at the Supervisor's Office in Kalispell, Montana. He specializes in analysis of stone tools.

Gary is married, with two children in college. After vacationing in the Four Corners for a decade, he considers it to be on the list of America's greatest hits: "The country is spectacular, the archaeology fascinating." He looks forward to backpacking, hiking, cross-country skiing, and fishing.

## Darlin' Darlene

By Phyllis Decker

**PAGOSA SPRINGS** - Eleanor "Darlene" Lujan recently received a promotion to Purchasing Agent for the San Juan National Forest and Local Agency Program Coordinator (LAPC) for the Purchase Card System for the San Juan and the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison (GMUG) NFs.

Darlene has a long history on the San Juan. She started in 1974 as trainee receptionist at the Pagosa RD, where she went on to work as receptionist, payroll clerk with personnel duties, procurement clerk, and resource clerk for timber, range, and recreation.

In 1987, she became the District's purchasing agent. A decade later, she remained at the District, while her duties were expanded to serve as purchasing agent for the San Juan, GMUG, Pike San Isabel, White River, and Rio Grande NFs. Darlene also served as LAPC for as many as three of these Forests. "It's a challenging experience to work for other Forests and a great opportunity to meet people," she says.

Darlene was born in the Pagosa Springs area, as were her parents. Her mother's father was a schoolteacher in Edith, and her father was born and raised in Trujillo, both communities south of Pagosa Springs. Her family had a ranch in Trujillo, known as the Shenandoah Ranch, until 1965.

Darlene has two daughters, Lynette and Candida and a granddaughter, Meghan (a big Smokey Bear fan); soon she'll have a grandson. Her eyes sparkle when she talks about her grandbabies. Darlene says she has 27.5 years (someone's counting!) with the USFS and is looking forward to retirement. She enjoys walking, movies, dancing, camping and fishing, and, especially, family gatherings.



## DOLORES PUBLIC LANDS OFFICE

### MacMillan's the Man

By Toni Kelly



**DOLORES** - Recently hired for the Hazard Fuels Reduction Program, Vince MacMillan has joined the staff of archaeologists in Dolores. One of his primary duties will be to complete cultural-resource surveys in areas where fuels-reduction projects are proposed.

Vince hails from Laramie, Wyoming. He received his undergraduate degree in Anthropology and English at the University of Nebraska, and returned to Wyoming to work on his graduate degree at the University of Wyoming. He is writing his master's thesis on Paleo-Indian stone-tool technology and has been working in his preferred field since 1992.

"I've worked primarily with the Park Service and the University of Wyoming. Most recently, I worked as the Field Director for the Post-

Fire Cultural Resource Assessment Project at Mesa Verde National Park," Vince says.

"Rock climbing is my obsession", he claims. His closest pals are Plain Jane, his trusty mutt; and Opal, his black cat.

*(Toni Kelly is the Dolores Public Lands Office Visitor Information Specialist.)*

## Gaddis No Gadfly

By Toni Kelly

**DOLORES** - John Wesley Gaddis, who goes by "Wes," moved into a permanent fire position this summer after working as a temporary in timber for several seasons. He's now an Assistant Engine Supervisor in Dolores. His hometown is Sheridan, Arkansas, but he has local family ties.

"My father graduated from Dolores High School in 1958, and worked for the Forest Service as a temporary," Wes says. "He was on a fencing crew and stayed at the Glade Guard Station."

Wes earned a bachelor's degree in biology from Henderson State University in Arkadelphia, Arkansas. He began his career with the Forest Service as a seasonal timber stand crew leader for the San Juan in Pagosa Springs and Bayfield. He also worked as a temporary on timber crews for the Medicine Bow NF. During his timber years, Wes gained knowledge and experience in fire management on several fire assignments.



## Ranger Rick Rules

By Ralph Swain

**DENVER** - Every year at the R2 Wilderness Ranger Workshop, we recognize the best speakers for their communication skills and their ability to present their topic to the attendees. For the third year in a row, the honor in Aspen this spring went to Rick Ryan, BLM River Manager - Recreation Technician, Dolores Public Lands Office.

For half of the last dozen Wilderness Ranger Workshops hosted by the Rocky Mountain Region, Rick has conducted orienteering classes. His workshops always receive high marks and, for the last two years, Rick has been selected and awarded the Best Field Workshop Speaker by the workshop attendees.

Rick is an outstanding communicator who is passionate about teaching others the basic skills of map and compass. His workshops help beginners hone the techniques of backcountry travel essential to a Wilderness Ranger. For the advanced students, Rick teaches more in-depth triangulation and compass-bearing-reading skills.

Rick is also a Leave No Trace (LNT) Master who teaches LNT practices and ethics for river rafting/kayaking courses. His ability to teach and make learning fun is remarkable. He is a regional treasure, and the San Juan should be proud of how well Rick represents the BLM and Forest Service in all that he does.

*(Ralph Swain is the R2 Wilderness Program Manager.)*

## Charlotte's in Our Web

By Toni Kelly

**DOLORES** - The new Dolores Wildlife/Fisheries Technician, Charlotte Thompson, is certainly not new to the area. Born in Durango, Charlotte has spent most of her life in Dolores, where she grew up, raised her family, and now joins the ranks at the Dolores Public Lands Office.

Charlotte is a graduate of Fort Lewis College, where she obtained her degree in Environmental Biology and earned a secondary-science teaching certificate.

She put her teaching certificate to use and taught high school math and science in Red Mesa, Arizona; Shiprock; and Dove Creek. During her "raising the kids" years, Charlotte worked as a summer temporary employee for the Dolores Ranger District. She has also worked seasonally for Mesa Verde National Park as a botanist funded under the "Save America's Treasures" program, and has worked on Mesa Verde's Fire Management Plan.

Charlotte comes from a family of five children. Her two older sisters no longer live in the area, but Shirley Dennison, editor of the *Dolores Star*, is Charlotte's twin. Her older brother, the late Ian "Sandy" Thompson, (who is dearly missed by many), was the director of Crow Canyon Archaeological Center at one time. Charlotte has two children, Shane and Hondo Brisbin. Shane and his wife are currently building a home in Dolores. Hondo is attending the University of Maine as a National Exchange student through the University of Wyoming.



## Celestino A. Velasquez, Jr.

2/22/34 – 7/9/02

By Toni Kelly

**MANCOS** - The San Juan National Forest sadly bid farewell to Tino Velasquez, a friend and long-time employee of the old Mancos Ranger District, this summer. Tino passed away at home on July 9<sup>th</sup> after losing his battle with cancer. His family all agree he was courageous and went peacefully.

Tino, who was 68 at the time of his death, began his USFS career in the early 70s and worked for more than 20 years in timber. He's remembered fondly by long-time employees as the guy who could out-cruise just about anyone. Tino retired in 1996.

He was born in McPhee, Colorado, now under the reservoir of the same name. His father worked at the McPhee Sawmill until it closed, then moved the family to Mancos.

"Tino was the clown in our house; most people didn't know that about him," his wife, I da, says. "He was always singing and dancing for us, and always made a point to stand in front of the TV to ensure he had our attention." Son Tim remembers hunting trips with his father. "Dad just liked to be in the mountains, he didn't care if he got anything or not. If he did get something he gave most of it away to relatives."



Daughter Tina shared her thoughts about the special bond her five-year-old daughter, Celeste, had with her grandfather. "Whenever we punished Celeste and sent her to the corner, Dad would always call her over and ruin the effect of the punishment," Tina says. She turned to Celeste and asked her, "Who will protect you now?" Celeste smiled and pointed to I da. "Grandma," she grinned.

## ANASAZI HERITAGE CENTER (AHC)

### Watching over CANM

By Michael Williams

**DOLORES** - Keith McGrath, Law Enforcement Ranger for Canyons of the Ancients National Monument (CANM), moved into his office at the AHC last spring after finishing a round of courses at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Glencoe, Georgia.

When he's not out patrolling the 162,000 acres of CANM, Keith can be found maintaining equipment or handling administrative paper-work. It's the outdoor part of his job that Keith likes best.

"This area's landscape and its wildlife are really remarkable," he says. Hunting and fishing are some of his favorite pursuits.

Keith is originally from Alamogordo, New Mexico, but spent the last 6 years in San Diego as a U.S. Border Patrol agent, along one of the busiest stretches of the border.

He and his wife, Krista, have a four-year-old son named Tanner. Two chocolate Labrador retrievers round out the family. Skiing and softball are favorite activities for the McGrath clan. Keith also enjoys all kinds of physical training when time allows. Lately, though, yard work takes up most of his spare time.

*(Michael Williams is AHC Museum Specialist/Exhibits.)*



### Murphy Watches Over Artifacts

By Michael J. Williams

**DOLORES** - Tracy Murphy, who joined the AHC curation staff last fall, helps to manage the vast permanent collection of artifacts at the museum, a designated federal repository for archaeological materials recovered from public land in our region.

As System Administrator for the Museum Collections Database, Tracey is coordinating a major conversion of 800,000+ records from their original 1980s standards into twenty-first-century software. The conversion will improve access to artifacts and excavation records in the AHC's collection, an important resource for research

by archaeologists nationwide.

She also trains curation volunteers, catalogues incoming artifacts and additions to the archives, and leads public tours of the curation facilities.

Tracey lives in Dolores with four cats. She came here from Flagstaff, Arizona, where she was Collections Manager for Archaeology, Ethnology and Fine Art at the Museum of Northern Arizona.

She graduated magna cum laude from the University of Colorado with an undergraduate degree in anthropology, and received her master's in anthropology from Northern Arizona University.

"If you love archaeology and prehistory, this is the field to be in," Tracy says. "I learn something new every day."

Tracy likes to hike; bird watch; and listen to live bluegrass, old-time, and folk music. In winter, she snowshoes and cross-country skis. She also likes to cook, and claims to make the world's best strawberry rhubarb pie. "And I can tune up my own car!" Her plans for the future include "to keep learning and buy a house where I can plant the garden I've dreamed of for years."

## He's a Hemann

By Michael J. Williams

**DOLORES** - Matt Hemann is the AHC's new Maintenance Mechanic and all-around Fixer Upper. He arrived last year from Troy, Illinois, where he was a State Grounds and Maintenance Technician.

Matt built his own house back in Illinois and claims he "can fix almost anything." He likes a challenge and has had more than a few since starting work at the AHC. Just keeping up with the replacement of burned-out overhead lights in the two exhibit galleries can occasionally seem like a full-time occupation.

Right now, Matt is concentrating on replacement of the museum's entire heating, ventilating, and air-conditioning system. He is in constant communication with contractors and will oversee all phases of the work. The new system will include the precise humidity controls necessary for a museum. The task will require reconstruction to replace ductwork in the public areas. Matt is also responsible for the AHC's other electrical, carpentry, and plumbing needs.

Recently, Matt returned to Illinois for "a very tough two weeks" of service with his National Guard unit. He also contributes his talent for building and fixing things at his church and volunteers as an assistant coach for wrestling and soccer, two of his favorite sports. Matt also loves hunting and fishing. His dream is "to win the lottery and retire early to Alaska, and maybe become a guide for other people on big hunts and fishing trips."





## The Plan Man

By Michael J. Williams

**DOLORES** - If Steve Kandell were any taller, we'd probably have to replace the doorway to his new office at the AHC. But maybe his 6' 6" height will help provide the long view and perspective he needs as the recently hired Planning and Environmental Coordinator for CANM. Steve is facilitating development of a Resource Management Plan for CANM.

"Planning is a generalist profession, which allows me to work with and learn from a diverse group of resource specialists and community members," Steve says.

This is hardly Steve's first experience in planning. For the past 4 years, he's been the Land Use Planner for the BLM Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in Kanab, Utah. Before that, he worked as a Land Use Planning Consultant for the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah in Cedar City, and as Principal Environmental Planner for the Atlanta Regional Commission. His first position with the BLM, years ago, was as a Recreation Technician for two seasons in Gunnison.

Steve enjoys running, biking, hiking, reading, and "eating meals I didn't have to prepare." He is also an aspiring guitarist and enjoys travel; recently he returned from backpacking the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu in Peru.

## Dominguez Greets Visitors

By Michael J. Williams

**DOLORES** - Marissa Dominguez recently became AHC Museum Specialist in charge of Visitor Services. Her role is to welcome and orient visitors so they can get the most out of their visit to the museum or to the Canyons of the Ancients National Monument (CANM).

"I always remember the people who tell me that they learned a lot in the museum, or that they really appreciated the information we were able to give them," she says. "I like the variety. You never know what's going to happen on any given day."

As Volunteer Coordinator, Marissa has recruited and trained a cadre of regular museum volunteers who help with meeting and greeting the public. She also manages the AHC's Exhibit Loan Program, which offers a variety of portable exhibits to other institutions.

Hardly a newcomer, Marissa first came to the AHC in 1996 as a volunteer (previously, she worked as an Archaeologist and GIS Specialist for a Montrose consulting company). She returned as contractor for the Curation Division in 2000, and then as Exhibit Development Intern in 2001.

Marissa has lived on the Western Slope for a decade. She enjoys hiking, snowboarding, and mountain climbing. She's busy finishing her master's thesis, buying a house, and planning a wedding: she's engaged to Bryan Karchut, San Juan Fire Engine Supervisor in Dolores. They plan to marry in October. Brian and Marissa share a chocolate Lab "who gets treated like a little baby."





## Baldwin Likes New Job

By Suzanne Boles

**DOLORES** - Derrick Baldwin, new Heritage Education Technician for the Imagination Team, started work at the AHC in July. Most recently, he was an Environmental Education Instructor with the Canyonlands Field Institute in Utah. Before that, he worked as a seasonal ranger for the National Park Service at Buffalo National River in Arkansas. He has also worked under contract as a landscape designer.

"My favorite part of the new job is my co-workers," he says. "The least favorite is the sheer number of conference calls we have each week with people scattered all over the country."

He and his wife, Kelly, are from Missouri and enjoy hiking, biking, and outdoor-water-related activities, as well as gardening and cooking. Derrick says his autograph can be found at the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York.

"One summer I worked at a factory that built all the windows for the museum," he explains. "All of us signed the casing of one of the windows, so our names are all in the Hall of Fame!"

*(Suzanne Boles is the Archaeologist-Heritage Education Specialist for the Imagination Team.)*

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